THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) A total number of 1,09,421 workers have been covered under Voluntary Retirement Scheme of National Renewal Fund, as on 31.3.98, disbursing an amount of Rs. 2019.84 crore.

(c) The National Renewal Fund scheme of retraining and redeployment is open to all rationalised workers in organised sector. A total number of 6,712 workers have been redeployed, as on 31.3.98, under the scheme.

Industry Growth Centres

4351. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industry growth centres allotted to the country, especially in the North East States;

(b) the number of growth centres which have been completed and have started functioning;

(c) whether there is any time-bound programme for completing the construction of the growth centres;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (e) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 1988, 71 growth centres have been allotted for development throughout the country of which 9 centres have been allotted to the North East States.

The total number of growth centres approved so far is 66 of which 13 centres have been released full Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores each. Distribution of plots has commenced in 23 centre and the remaining centres are at various stages of development for implementation in the IX plan.

बाल श्रमिक और बाल शिक्षु में अन्तर

4352. **श्री चीमन भाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बाल-श्रमिक और बाल शिक्षु में कोई अन्तर है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन दोनों का वर्गीकरण कैसे किया जाता है;

(ग) देश की पारम्पारिक कलाओं के विकास हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या योजना तैयार की गई है; और

(घ) बाल-श्रमिकों के लिए प्रारम्भ की गई योजनाओं की अब तक कितनी बार समीक्षा की गई है?

श्रम मंत्री (डा॰ सत्यनारायण जटिया): (क) और (ख) शिक्षु अधिनियम, 1961 और बालश्रम (प्रतिषेध और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986 के अन्तर्गत बाल श्रमिक और बाल शिक्षु के बीच, विशेष रूप में कोई अन्तर नहीं किया गया है। तथापि, बाल श्रम (प्रतिषेध और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986 में कतिपय व्यवसायों और प्रक्रियाओं में बच्चों के नियोजन के प्रतिषेध की व्यवस्था है।

(ग) विकास आयुक्त (हस्तशिल्प) का कार्यालय देश में परम्परागत शिल्पों के विकास और संवर्धन तथा परम्परागत कला को संरक्षित रखने के लिए अनेक योजनाएं क्रियान्वित कर रहा है। इनमें शामिल हैं: (i) हुनर सिखाने के लिए दस्तकारों को प्रशिक्षण, (ii) डिजाइन एवं तकनीकी विकास (iii) प्रदर्शनियों, शिल्प मेलों, हस्तशिल्प प्रदर्शनों, आदि जैसे क्रियाकलापों के लिए विपणन विकास सहायता, (iv) शिल्प विकास केन्द्रों की स्थापना के लिए सहायता और (v) प्रतिभाशाली दस्तकारों को राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार प्रदान करना आदि।

इसके अलावा, देश की परम्परागत कला को संरक्षित रखने के लिए क्षेत्रीय हस्तशिल्प क्यूजियम स्थापित करने और समस्याओं की पहचान, प्रशिक्षण, डिजाइन विकास, प्रचार विपणन आदि जैसे अनेक उपायों के माध्यम से लुप्त हो रही शिल्पों के पुनरूज्जीवन के लिए सहायता मुहैया करायी जा रही है।

(घ) बाल श्रम योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत शुरू किए गए कार्यक्रम के प्रबोधन के लिए केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार द्वारा नियमित रूप से आवधिक समीक्षाएं की जाती है।

Outstanding statutory dues of workers

4353. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Group of Ministries regarding clearance of outstanding statutory dues of workers;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations; and

(c) if any, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The final recommendations of the Group of Ministers

constituted for clearance of outstanding statutory dues of workers could not be made on account of dissolution of the previous Cabinet.

(b) and (c) Based on the discussions in the meeting of the Group of Ministers on 29th August, 1997, the Government has been making concerted efforts to liquidate outstanding statutory dues of workers. In the Union Budget for 1998-99 the Government has made an allocation of Rs. 1482 crores as non-Plan loans mainly for payment of wages and salaries to the employees of sick and convalescent PSUs.

New National Labour Policy

4354. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the new National Labour Policy;

(b) the measures taken to mitigate the grievances of workers in the unorganised sector; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a second National Labour Commission for solving such workers' problem and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Review and updation of Labour Policy is a continuous process so as to ensure its relevance to the emerging needs. However, in the context of preparation for the 9th Five Year Plan, a Working Group on Labour Policy was set up in December, 1995. The report was submitted to the Planning Commission in October, 1996 The thrust of the Labour Policy would be on consolidation and strengthening of the base created through tripartitism for maintaining industrial peace and harmony. The policy parameters include development of a labour policy in tune with the economic policy with a thrust on appropriate employment and wage policy.

(b) Most of the Labour Laws apply to workers in the organised as well as unorganised sectors. Minimum Wages Act is an important piece of social legislation meant to safeguard the interest of workers in the unorganised Sector.

Additionally, for certain categories of unorganised workers, the Government have established Welfare Funds to address concerns in areas like health, housing, social security, educational and recreational facilities etc.

To improve the working conditions of construction workers and to provide minimum social security for them, the following two laws concerning construction workers have recently been enacted:

(i) The Building and other Construction of Workers (Regulation of Employment and conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

(ii) The Building and other Construction Workers (welfare cases) Act, 1996.

(c) Labour Laws have been enacted over a period of time to address a number of issues which assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. While many of these issues are of continued nature, some of these might have ceased to be of importance hence the need for review of labour policies, programmes and laws flowing from them. This question has also been discussed in the Tripartite meeting of the Standing Labour Committee and Indian Labour Conference and the Government has agreed, in principle, to have these laws reviewed by setting up a high powered body so as to ensure consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy as also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

Increasing unemployment in the country

4355. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of unemployment has increased in the country for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of State-wise increase in the Employment Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As per the Labour Force Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation the unemployment which was of the order of 12 million during 1987-88 has come down to 9 million in 1993-94 as per Usual Principal Status. However, the number of job-seekers,